Setting your DSLR for Sunset and Night Photography

**Typical setting for shooting at time of Sunset for Landscape or Model without using the Flash**
Program Mode (P)
ISO: 200 - 400
White Balance: Tungsten (make less warm), Daylight, Cloudy (make warm), Auto, 3000k. Take some test shot with each setting to see which one you like.

Program Mode (Av on Canon or A on Nikon)
ISO: 200 - 400
White Balance: Tungsten (make less warm), Daylight, Cloudy (make warm), Auto, 3000k. Take some test shot with each setting.
F-stop: As low as possible (to let in the maximum amount of light)

Program Mode (Tv on Canon or S on Nikon)
ISO: 200 - 400
White Balance: Tungsten (make less warm), Daylight, Cloudy (make warm), Auto, 3000k. Take some test shot with each setting.
Shutter Speed: 1/100 sec and faster (to avoid camera shake). Slower shutter speed allow for more light into the camera.

Program Mode (M Full manual)
ISO: 200 - 400
White Balance: Tungsten (make less warm), Daylight, Cloudy (make warm), Auto, 3000k. Take some test shot with each setting.
F-stop: As low as possible (to let in the maximum amount of light)
Shutter Speed: 1/100 sec and faster (to avoid camera shake). Slower shutter speed allow for more light into the camera.

**Typical setting for shooting at night time with a tripod.**
Same as above, but with ISO 400 - 1600 for a much more light sensitive image sensor.
Since you are using a tripod, camera shake will no long be a problem. Which means you can use any shutter speed setting.
Try to experiment with slower shutter speed and see the effects of moving lights.

**Atypical setting for shooting at night time with a tripod.**
Program Mode (Tv on Canon or S on Nikon)
ISO: 100 - 200 (Since you are on a tripod the lack of image sensor sensitivity can be compensate with longer exposure.
Also, using a lower ISO will allow you to retain better image quality.)
White Balance: Tungsten (make less warm—most night lights are of warmish temperature.) Auto, 3000k.
Shutter Speed: As long as possible without under exposing or over exposing. Up to 30 second.

Program Mode (M Full manual)
ISO: 100 - 200
White Balance: Tungsten (make less warm—most night lights are of warmish temperature.) Auto, 3000k.
F-stop: F-8 and higher (this will allow for a sharper image into the distance.)
Shutter Speed: As long as possible without under exposing or over exposing. Up to 30 second.

**Other techniques for shooting in limited light environment:**
1. While the camera is on the tripod, try to use the self timer to trigger the shutter instead of directly pushing down on the shutter button. This will help to further reduce camera vibration from your hand pressing down on the shutter button.

2. While on the Av/A or Tv/S program mode, experiment with the camera’s Exposure Compensation function to overwrite your camera’s metering setting to overexposed and underexposed your photos of the same scene. See where details are reveal and where details are loss.

3. Setting your camera to shoot with different color filters to achieve unique color effects. Please refer back to your camera’s manual to see how to access the color filter function in your camera.

4. Shooting with Auto Exposture Bracket (AEB) for High Density Range (HDR) photo processing. HDR photo processing allow you to recover details loss in the highlight and shadow area of the photograph in a single photo. One method to create HDR image is to combine a series of photographs of the same scene, each photo is exposed slightly different. This is where you camera AEB mode comes in handy. Shooting with AEB basically means the camera is set to shoot 3 continuously photo of the same scene (that is if you didn’t move around between each exposure). First photo at normal exposure, the second and the third will be overexposed and underexposed. Using HDR processing software, you will combine all 3 photos into one HDR photo.
Please refer back to your camera’s manual to see how to access the (AEB) function in your camera.